

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 /121 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 282970 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 282971 (NOTAL)

1. TEXT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S FIRST QUARTERLY
ESTIMATE OF 1975 MEAT IMPORTS SUBJECT TO MEAT IMPORT LAW,
BEING RELEASED HERE AT MID-DAY (DECEMBER 31), FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT.

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE J. PHIL CAMPBELL ANNOUNCED
TODAY THAT BASED ON THE EXPECTATION THAT THE VOLUNTARY
ARRANGEMENTS TO LIMIT IMPORTS INTO THE U.S. BEING
NEGOTIATED WITH SUPPLYING COUNTRIES BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, CALENDAR YEAR 1975 IMPORTS OF MEAT
SUBJECT TO THE MEAT IMPORT LAW (P.L. 88-482) ARE ESTIMATED
AT 1,150 MILLION POUNDS. THE ESTIMATE IS ROUGHLY 30
MILLION POUNDS BELOW THE QUANTITY THAT WOULD TRIGGER THE
IMPOSITION OF IMPORT QUOTAS UNDER THE LAW.

PUBLIC LAW 88-482 ENACTED IN AUGUST 1964 PROVIDES THAT IF
YEARLY IMPORTS OF CERTAIN MEATS--PRIMARILY FROZEN BEEF--
ARE ESTIMATED TO EQUAL OR EXCEED 110 PERCENT OF AN ADJUSTED
BASE QUANTITY, QUOTAS ARE TO BE IMPOSED ON THE IMPORTS OF
THESE MEATS. THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY FOR 1975 IS
1,074.3 MILLION POUNDS. THE AMOUNT OF ESTIMATED IMPORTS

WHICH WOULD TRIGGER IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS IN 1975 IS
1,181.7 MILLION POUNDS. ACTING SECRETARY CAMPBELL
SAID TODAY'S ESTIMATE WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED THE TRIGGER
LEVEL IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE EXPECTED ARRANGEMENTS WITH
SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

ACTING SECRETARY CAMPBELL NOTED THAT THE ESTIMATE
ANNOUNCED TODAY WILL BE SUBJECT TO QUARTERLY REVIEW.
THE NEXT ESTIMATE OF 1975 IMPORTS OF MEAT SUBJECT TO THE
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MEAT IMPORT LAW WILL BE MADE AT THE END OF MARCH AND
ANNOUNCED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1. NO LARGE INCREASE IN
BEEF IMPORTS IS EXPECTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975
COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1974. IMPORTS DURING
JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1974 WERE 22 PERCENT BELOW IMPORTS
DURING THE SAME 1973 PERIOD. IMPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1974
WERE 28 PERCENT BELOW THOSE A YEAR EARLIER. ANNUAL
IMPORTS IN 1974 ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE 1,065 MILLION
POUNDS WHICH IS BELOW THE 1974 TRIGGER LEVEL FOR
IMPOSITION OF IMPORT QUOTAS. THE TRIGGER LEVEL IN 1974

WAS 1,130.7 MILLION POUNDS.

SINCE MID-1972, IMPORTS OF MEATS COVERED BY THE MEAT IMPORT LAW HAVE BEEN UNRESTRICTED DUE TO SUSPENSIONS OF THE IMPORT QUOTAS. FROM 1968 TO MID-1972, VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAMS WERE IN EFFECT.

WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION OF BEEF, PARTICULARLY THAT FROM GRASS-FED ANIMALS, IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY IN 1975. IMPORTED BEEF COMPETES DIRECTLY WITH DOMESTIC BEEF PRODUCED FROM CULLED COWS AND OTHER ANIMALS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN GRAIN FED. PRICES OF COWS USED TO PRODUCE THIS TYPE OF BEEF HAVE FALLEN TO ALMOST HALF THEIR LEVEL OF A YEAR AGO.

THIS U.S. ACTION IS NECESSARY IN LARGE PART DUE TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED ON BEEF IN OTHER MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES. CATTLE NUMBERS IN PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WITH OTHER MAJOR WORLD MARKETS CONTINUING TO BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED, INCREASED EXPORTS FROM MAJOR SUPPLYING COUNTRIES COULD FURTHER AFFECT U.S. BEEF PRODUCERS RESULTING IN DISRUPTION OF U.S. BEEF SUPPLIES IN FUTURE YEARS. END TEXT. SISCO

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